



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**  
**UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 30/12/12

**MCHUNU SUSPENDS RTI RECRUITMENT AS THE PROVINCE MOURNS THE DEATH OF SEVEN APPLICANTS.**

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu has indefinitely suspended the recruitment process following the tragic death of seven applicants during the fitness test.

Mchunu announced this decision after meeting with the management team tasked to preside over the selection process of the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI).

The meeting was to ascertain what caused the deaths of seven prospective trainees and to determine the way forward with regards to correcting and adjusting weaknesses in the selection process.

Yesterday Mchunu visited various hospitals around Pietermaritzburg to assess conditions of those who are hospitalized.

More than 230 applicants admitted in hospitals after collapsing during the fitness test conducted at the Harry Gwala stadium on the 27 and 28 December 2012.

Many of them were treated and discharged, only 11 are remaining in hospitals but are in a stable condition.

**Media Liaison & Public Relations Directorate**

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa  
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa  
Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632  
Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za/home.htm>

According the doctors report, many candidates suffered from dehydration and heart exhaustion.

The fitness test is a general norm and standard within a security force, aiming at assessing the physical fitness of all candidates.

All candidates were subjected to this test of a four kilometers run within a specified time.

More than 150 000 applications were received and 34 000 candidates were shortlisted for the 90 advertised RTI trainee posts.

Mchunu announced that he is now embarking on a thorough investigation to uncover the truth of what happened.

“This investigation will uncover all what transpired during the process. It is also going to look at the plan of the Department, if it was correct to conduct this massive work in such a sunny weather condition. I am optimistic that this investigation will reveal all what happened and also assist in guiding processes of this magnitude in future.

After assessing all the proceedings I decided to suspend all the tests and all proceedings to give the planning committee time to reflect at this unfortunate and tragic situation. I have also tasked the committee to develop a new plan to deal with this process properly,” said Mchunu.

Mchunu on behalf of the provincial government and the Premier extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

“This is a period of mourning. This tragedy took all of us by surprised. We must work together to find solutions to this challenge so that it does not happen again. We regret that people lost their lives in an attempt to get jobs. This is an indication that we have much bigger problem which we need to address as a country. As government we are working together with the families to give them assistance during this difficult period. I would like to send my condolences to all the families who lost their loved ones,” concludes Mchunu.

Ends

Contact - Kwanele Ncalane

**Media Liaison & Public Relations Directorate**

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa

Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa

Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632

Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za/home.htm>

072 803 1462  
079 6995755

**Media Liaison & Public Relations Directorate**

Street Address: 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 Republic of South Africa  
Postal Address: Private Bag X9043, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 Republic of South Africa  
Tel: (27) (33) 355 8624 Fax: (27) (33) 355 8632  
Internet: <http://www.kzntransport.gov.za/home.htm>